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Jenkins County Ag Update

Reminders

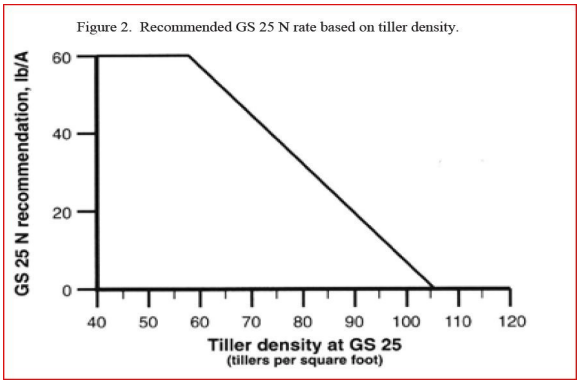
Event	Location	Date/Time
Corn Short Course	Tifton	Jan 15
Peanut Farm Show	Tifton	Jan 17
Cotton Meeting	Ag Center	Jan 28, 12:00 p.m.
Pecan Meeting	Ag Center	Jan 31, 12:00 p.m.
Ag Forecast Meeting	Lyons, GA	Feb 1, 9:30 a.m.

For more information on any of these events, please call the Extension Office.

Wheat Update *(Wade Parker)*

After a very dry and mild fall, our winter wheat crop is off to a decent start. Most fields I have visited Are tillering good and have a decent color. I have fielded some questions on the applying nitrogen fertilizer now, and again in February. Keep in mind, that the timing of N fertilization should be based on the pattern of uptake by the crop. Demand for N is relatively low in the fall but increases rapidly in the spring just prior to stem elongation. When the wheat crop reaches the growth stage GS 25, begin counting tillers to determine the need for additional nitrogen applications for the proper tiller production prior to the onset of stem elongation. If you really want to assess your tiller production, randomly choose 10 to 15 areas in the field to obtain an accurate estimate of tillers per square foot. If the tiller counts are low, 70 tillers per square foot or less, nitrogen applications at this time are critical for improving the yield potential of the crop. Depending on how much nitrogen was applied at planting, an application of 30-40 lbs of N will be needed for low tiller count. If the tiller count exceeds 100 or more per square foot, then apply all remaining nitrogen at or just before stem elongation. Wheat stage GS 25 is close to where we are now. *The bottom line: Maximum tiller production is essential to good yields!*

When counting tillers, each tiller will have its own leaf sheath. The leaf sheath is the outer covering of the stem. The person in the picture is holding a plant with at least 2-3 tillers.



The chart on the left illustrates nitrogen recommendations relative to tiller count. Again, count the tillers in a square foot. Using the graph, match tiller count to nitrogen recommendations. This is the easiest way to decide if any additional N is necessary at this stage of growth. I strongly suggest taking a tissue test the last week of January.

Wheat Herbicide Update

Controlling winter weeds in your wheat crop are just as essential as applying the correct amount of fertilizer or any other important agronomic practice. The key to controlling winter weeds is selecting the right chemical and proper timing of application. Large weeds are often more difficult to control than smaller weeds, and many herbicides used in wheat will cause a certain amount of injury. This injury is determined by the current growth stage of the wheat when the herbicide is applied. The most common weeds in wheat are: wild mustard, wild radish, cutleaf eveningprimrose, buttercups, and henbit. While henbit was not a major problem 15 years ago, it is a severe problem in our wheat fields. Wild radish or "turnips" have always been an issue. I suggest growers apply tank-mix Harmony Extra, Express, or Peak + .5 pint of 2,4-D or MCPA. This tank-mix will adequately control the weeds described above. MCPA is similar to 2,4-D, but MCPA appears to cause less crop injury. Harmony Extra and Express need to be pre-mixed in water before adding to the main solution. If applying these chemicals with nitrogen, add 1 pint of a non-ionic surfactant per 100 gallons of solution. If applying in water, add 1 quart of non-ionic surfactant per 100 gallons of water. Many growers will want to add these chemicals to their February nitrogen to save a trip, just hope the weeds have not gotten too big for adequate control. *Remember: timing is everything!*

The Effect of Stage of Growth on Wheat Injury by Various Herbicides.

	Stage of Growth[1]			
Herbicide	**0-1 tiller**	**2-3 tillers**	**full tiller**	**Jointing**
2,4-D	>80%[2]	35%	0-10%	70-90%
MCPA	>30%	10%	0-5%	50-70%
Peak	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%	5-10%
Express	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%	5-10%
Harmony Extra	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%	5-10%
Express + MCPA	>30%	5%	0-5%	50-80%
Osprey	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%
PowerFlex	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%